

**Finding of No Significant Impact**  
**Rockville Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal**  
**Environmental Assessment EA #ID130-05-006**

I have reviewed the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for significance (40 CFR 1508.27) and have determined the actions analyzed in EA #ID130-05-006 would not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment; therefore an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This finding was made by considering both the context and intensity of the potential effects, as described in the above EA, using the following factors defining significance:

- 1) *Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.*

The analysis documented in EA #ID130-05-006 did not identify any individual significant adverse short-term or long-term impacts. In the long-term, under the proposed grazing management practices, improvement in the overall rangeland health within the Rockville Allotment will occur.

- 2) *The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety.*

No significant effects to public health and safety were identified in the EA.

- 3) *Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands. Wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.*

No major effects on unique geographic characteristics of the area, cultural or historical resources, parklands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas were identified in the EA. Cultural resources would not be adversely impacted. Improvement to riparian areas is expected through the application of the Annual Grazing Use Indicators (EA ID130-05-006, Riparian, Wetlands, and Water Quality). No prime farmlands or parklands are found in the project area.

- 4) *The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.*

The analysis did not identify highly controversial effects on the quality of the human environment. Public comments did express concerns about effects of management actions on various resource values. The effects have been analyzed and disclosed in the EA.

- 5) *The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.*

The analysis did not identify any effects on the human environment that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks. Grazing has been the primary use in this area for at least 70 years (Taylor Grazing Act, 1934). Vegetation management projects similar to those proposed by this decision have been completed in other parts of the Owyhee resource area, including monitoring following treatment. Therefore the effects of the proposed action on the human environment are not highly uncertain, and do not involve unique or unknown risks.

- 6) *The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.*

The analysis showed how the alternatives would implement direction in the Owyhee Resource Management Plan and would not establish precedent for any future actions. The activities are not connected to any other future actions. Implementation of this decision would not trigger other actions, nor is it a part of a larger action in the project area encompassed by this decision.

- 7) *Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.*

The analysis did not identify any known significant cumulative or secondary effects (EA #ID130-05-006). Outside this project area, additional Standards and Guidelines assessments, determinations and subsequent decisions have been made, resulting in changes in livestock management actions, stocking levels and seasons of use. However, those actions in combination with this decision are not expected to result in cumulatively significant impacts.

- 8) *The degree to which the action may adversely affect properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.*

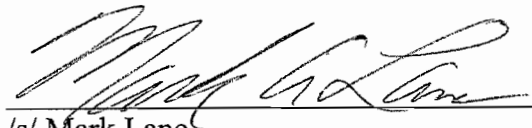
The analysis showed that the alternatives would not result in adverse effects to cultural or historical resources. The terms and conditions of the grazing permit under the proposed action provide a reasonable level of general protection for cultural resources.

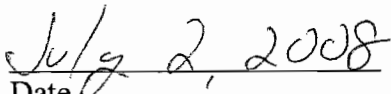
- 9) *The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.*

No endangered or threatened species are known in this allotment. Therefore, threatened or endangered species would not be adversely impacted by the proposed action.

- 10) *Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, and local laws or requirements imposed for protection of the environment.*

The analysis in the EA shows that the alternatives are consistent with Federal, State, and local laws or requirements imposed for protection of the environment.

  
/s/ Mark Lane  
Owyhee Field Manager

  
Date